

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method of making a vehicle component, the method comprising:
2 providing a first mold section (22), a second mold section (24), and a shut-off
3 member (26) movable between a first position and a second position;
4 providing a flexible element (121);
5 positioning the flexible element (121) proximate the first mold section or the
6 second mold section; the first cavity;
7 providing a first cavity defined by the first mold section (22), the second mold
8 section (24), and the shut-off member (26) when in the first position;
9 injecting a first resin into the first cavity;
10 providing a second cavity (23) defined by the first mold section (22), the
11 second mold section (24), the first resin (18), and the shut off member (26) when in the
12 second position;
13 moving the shut-off member (26) from the first position to the second
14 position;
15 injecting a second resin (20) into the second cavity (23).
- 1 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the first resin (18) is at least partially
2 solidified when the second resin (20) is injected.
- 1 3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the flexible element (121) comprises a
2 flexible skin (122).
- 1 4. The method of Claim 3 wherein the flexible element (121) further comprises a
2 compressible material (124) coupled to at least a portion of the flexible skin (122).
- 1 5. The method of Claim 4 wherein the step of positioning the flexible component
2 (121) within the first cavity or the second cavity comprises positioning the skin (122) against
3 one of the first mold section and the second mold section.
- 1 6. The method of Claim 4 wherein the molded component comprises a first
2 compressible region (112) where the first resin (18) or the second resin (20) is directly
3 coupled to the skin (122), and a second compressible region (112) where the compressible
4 material (124) is disposed between the first resin (18) and the skin (122).

1 7. The method of Claim 1 wherein the flexible element (121) is positioned in the
2 first cavity section.

1 8. The method of Claim 1 wherein the first resin (18) comprises a first polymeric
2 material and the second resin (20) comprises a second polymeric material different than the
3 first polymeric material.

1 9. The method of Claim 8 wherein the first resin (18) comprises a first color and
2 the second resin (20) comprises a second color different than the first color.

1 10. The method of Claim 8 wherein the first polymeric material comprises a first
2 color and the second polymeric material comprises a second color which is approximately the
3 same as the first color.

1 11. The method of Claim 1 wherein the first resin (18) comprises a first polymeric
2 material and the second resin (20) comprises a second polymeric material which is the same
3 as the first polymeric material.

1 12. The method of Claim 11 wherein the first polymeric material comprises a first
2 color and the second polymeric material comprises a second color different than the first
3 color.

1 13. The method of Claim 1 wherein the first resin (18) comprises a first color and
2 the second resin (20) comprises a second color different than the first color.

1 14. The method of Claim 1 wherein the flexible element (121) is positioned in an
2 area of the vehicle component that may be interfaced by a user.

1 15. The method of Claim 14 wherein the flexible element (121) comprises a skin
2 (12) defining an "A" surface provided by the flexible element (121).

1 16. The method Claim 14 wherein the vehicle component is a vehicle door panel
2 or a vehicle instrument panel.

1 17. A trim panel for use in a vehicle, the trim panel comprising:
2 a one-piece molded member having a first substrate portion made of a first
3 resin (18), a second substrate portion made of a second resin (20), and a cushioned layer

4 (112) at least partially covering one of the first substrate portion and the second substrate
5 portion,

6 wherein the one-piece molded member is formed by a process wherein the
7 cushioned layer (112) is positioned into at least one of a first cavity and a second cavity, the
8 first resin (18) is injected into the first cavity, a retractor member (26) is moved to define a
9 second cavity, and the second resin (20) is injected into the second cavity.